

FALL/WINTER 2009-2010

Notes from the Director's Office – Liz Kelley

By the time of publication, the weather will have turned cold and the winter holidays are here. This is an especially exciting and busy time of the year when working with young children. This year, however, may be more challenging than past years. The economy has taken a toll not just on adults but on children as well. As adults, we try to insulate children from feeling the effects of the recent downturn in the economy, but they notice our adult tensions and stresses. Our collective goal is to be supportive of families and provide safe, healthy, and stimulating experiences for the children in our care.

In this issue of *Partners*, you will find information on a wide range of topics and happenings in the early child care field. I would like to highlight a couple of items - there will be some new training requirements for medication administration and emergency/disaster preparedness planning (see page 5 and back cover). We continue to work on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for child care programs (see page 6). Also in this issue is information about the MSDE web site.

The web site is your resource for regulations, updates, forms, and general information.

As you may be aware, the State is facing many difficult decisions concerning budgetary issues. There have been, and will continue to be, cuts to some initiatives while others remain relatively unchanged. Decisions on what to cut and what to continue are based on a variety of factors – the type of funding, the requirements of the funding stream, and most importantly the programs and supports that are mandated. Maryland received \$24 million dollars through the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA) to help with some of the fiscal issues faced by the State (see page 18). While we welcome the ARRA funds, they are only temporary and will address few of our long-term goals.

These are difficult and challenging times. Times that call for each of us to use our knowledge, skills and leadership to face the demands placed upon us. I, and the families and children in Maryland, greatly appreciate your dedication and hard work. Thank you for your continued commitment to Maryland's children and families.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|----|
| H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions For Child Care | 2 |
| Medication Administration Training..... | 5 |
| Quality Rating and Improvement System Coming to Maryland..... | 6 |
| Judy Centers Articles..... | 10 |
| FY 2010 Infant & Toddler Expansion Project..... | 12 |
| Early Childhood Mental Health Project..... | 13 |
| Spotlight on Sandi's Learning Center | 15 |
| Two Early Childhood Organizations Merge | 16 |
| Maryland Public Television - A Place for Early Childhood Educators..... | 17 |
| Regulation Changes..... | 20 |

Current issue and back issues of *Partners* are available online at:

www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/licensing_branch/news

..... OR

Go to the MSDE website: www.marylandpublicschools.org

- Select Divisions
- Select Early Childhood Development
- Select Publications and Reports
- Select Partners



Health & Safety

Communicable Disease Summary - A Guide for Schools and Child Care Settings and H1N1 Flu Response

To manage and prevent common communicable diseases, licensed child care programs and early childhood settings have used the “*Communicable Disease Summary: A Guide for School Health Services Personnel and Child Care Providers*” published by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. www.edcp.org The



To obtain the **Summary**:
Log on to: www.edcp.org

- Select: **Guidelines** on the left side of the web page. Scroll down to the section titled “**Schools and Child Care Settings**”
- Select: “**Communicable Disease Summary: Guide for Schools and Child Care Settings, April 2008**”

Office of Child Care encourages you to continue to use this guide to manage common diseases found in child care, including the current increased risk of acquiring H1N1 (Swine Flu).

The **Communicable Disease Summary** (pages 3 and 4) includes information designed to help you make decisions about when to exclude children or staff and when there is a risk for potential outbreaks in a facility.

Page 15 of the **Communicable Disease Summary** includes a list of symptoms related to Influenza (Seasonal) and can be useful in identifying children and staff who may be experiencing H1N1 flu related illness. The Summary provides information on how a disease is transmitted, how long it is infectious, when and for how long to exclude a child and what to do to prevent the spread of the infection. A list of Frequently Asked Questions and a listing of local Maryland Health Departments with contact information is provided in this issue of *Partners*.

H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions for Child Care

HOW CAN STAFF AND ATTENDEES PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FLU?

You can prevent the spread of flu by:

- Encouraging all early childhood program staff to get vaccinated for seasonal flu and **2009 H1N1 flu**;
- Educating and encouraging staff and children about the importance of covering their mouths and noses with a tissue when they cough or sneeze;
- Reminding staff and children to practice good hand hygiene;
- Reminding staff who are sick to stay home and parents to keep a sick child at home when they have flu-like symptoms;
- Performing a daily health check of children;

- Moving sick children or staff to a separate, but supervised, space until their parents can take them home;
- Sending sick staff home immediately and **advising them not to return until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine)**;
- Routinely cleaning surfaces and items that children frequently touch with their hands, mouths, and body fluids, such as toys, diaper stations, chairs, or playground equipment;



Continued on page 3



Health & Safety

H1N1 FAQ (continued)

- Encouraging early medical evaluation for children and staff **at higher risk of complications** from flu and
- Considering temporarily closing the child care facility if a number of staff and children are absent due to the flu.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SEASONAL FLU AND THE 2009 H1N1 FLU?

The symptoms of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu virus include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and tiredness. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, including 2009 H1N1, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE A FEVER OR SIGNS OF A FEVER?

A fever is a temperature measured by mouth with a thermometer that is equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). Look for these possible signs of fever: feels very warm to the touch, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering.

WHAT FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATIONS CAN CHILDREN AND STAFF TAKE WHEN SICK?

Fever-reducing medications are medicines that contain acetaminophen (such as Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (such as Motrin®). These medicines can be given to people who are sick with flu to help bring their fever down and relieve their pain. Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) **should not** be given to anyone younger than 18 years of age who has the flu; this can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's Syndrome. Child care programs may not give a child any medicines without a parent's approval.

WHICH CHILDREN AND STAFF ARE AT HIGHER RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS FROM FLU?

Children younger than 5 years of age, pregnant women, people of any age with chronic health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease) and people 65 years of age and older. Among children younger than 5 years old, the risk for severe complications from flu is highest among children younger than 2 years old.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE CHILDREN OR STAFF ILL WITH FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS?

Move children and staff who become sick at the child care facility to a separate, supervised space which separates them from others by at least 6 feet until they can be sent home. Limit the number of staff who take care of the sick person and provide a surgical mask to sick staff members to wear if they can tolerate it. Child care facility directors should make appropriate staffing changes to ensure child: staff ratios are maintained.

HOW LONG SHOULD CHILDREN AND STAFF WITH FLU-LIKE ILLNESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CHILD CARE FACILITY?

Children and caregivers with flu-like illness should be excluded for at least 24 hours after they are fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Child care programs, parents or state and local health officials may elect to require longer periods of exclusion.

WHEN SHOULD I CLOSE MY FACILITY?

If you do not have enough staff or attendees to operate your facility, your local health department may recommend closing your facility.

SHOULD I CLEAN MY FACILITY IF CHILDREN OR STAFF MEMBERS HAVE FLU OR FLU-LIKE ILLNESS?

Flu viruses may be spread when people touch droplets left by coughs and sneezes on hard surfaces (such as doorknobs or tables) or objects (such as toys or markers) and then touch their mouth or nose. However, it is not necessary to disinfect these surfaces beyond routine cleaning using household disinfectants or cleaners approved for use in child care settings.

MARYLAND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Addresses & Phone Numbers for Outbreak Reporting

| JURISDICTION | ADDRESS | JURISDICTION | ADDRESS |
|---|--|---|--|
| ALLEGANY Ph. 301-759-5093 Fax 301-777-5669 | 12501 Willowbrook Road SE Cumberland, MD 21501-1745 Lynne Kane | HARFORD Ph. 410-612-1779 Fax 410-612-9185 | 1321 Woodbridge Station Way Edgewood, MD 21040 8:00-4:00 |
| ANNE ARUNDEL Ph. 410-222-7256 Fax 410-222-7490 | 1 Harry S. Truman Pkwy. Room 231 Annapolis, MD 21401 | HOWARD Ph. 410-313-6110 Fax 410-313-6108 410-313-2929 | 7180 Columbia Gateway Dr. Columbia, MD 21046 After 5:00 pm |
| BALTIMORE CITY Ph. 410-396-4436 Fax 410-625-0688 | 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, MD 21202 8:00-4:00 | KENT Ph. 410-778-1350 Press 4 Fax 410-778-7913 | 125 S. Lynchburg Street Chestertown, MD 21620 Communicable Disease |
| BALTIMORE CO. Ph. 410-887-6011 Fax 410-377-5397 | Communicable Disease, 3rd Flr. 6401 York Road Baltimore, MD 21212 | MONTGOMERY Ph. 240-777-1755 Fax 240-777-1754 | 2000 Dennis Avenue Suite 238 Silver Spring, MD 20902 8:00-4:00 |
| CALVERT Ph. 410-535-5400 Ext. 334 Fax 410-414-2057 | PO Box 980 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 | PR. GEORGE'S Ph. 301-583-3750 Fax 301-583-3794 | 3003 Hospital Drive Suite 1066 Cheverly, MD 20785-1194 |
| CAROLINE Ph. 410-479-8006 Fax 410-479-4864 | PO Box 10 403 South 7th Street Denton, MD 21629 Ginger Howard | QUEEN ANNE'S Ph. 410-758-0720 Fax 410-758-8151 | 206 N. Commerce Street Centreville, MD 21617 8 :00 – 4 :00 |
| CARROLL Ph. 410-876-4936 Fax 410-876-4959 | PO Box 845 290 S. Center Street Westminster, MD 21158-0845 Doris Hare | ST. MARY'S Ph. 301-475-4380 Fax 301-475-4308 | PO Box 316 21580 Peabody Street Leonardtown, MD 20650 |
| CECIL Ph. 410-996-5100 Fax 410-996-1019 | 401 Bow Street Elkton, MD 21921 | SOMERSET Ph. 443-523-1740 Fax 410-651-5699 | 7920 Crisfield Highway Westover, MD 21871 |
| CHARLES Ph. 301-609-6900 Ext. 6025 Fax 301-934-7048 | PO Box 1050 White Plains, MD 20695 | TALBOT Ph. 410-819-5600 Fax 410-819-5693 | 100 S. Hanson Street Easton, MD 21601 |
| DORCHESTER Ph. 410-228-3223 Fax 410-901-8180 | 3 Cedar Street Cambridge, MD 21613 | WASHINGTON Ph. 240-313-3210 Fax 240-420-5367 | 1302 Pennsylvania Avenue Hagerstown, MD 21742 |
| FREDERICK Ph. 301-600-3342 Fax 301-600-1403 | 350 Montevue Lane Frederick, MD 21702 | WICOMICO Ph. 410-543-6943 Fax 410-548-5151 | 108 E. Main Street Salisbury, MD 21801-4921 |
| GARRETT Ph. 301-334-7777 Fax 301-334-7771 | 1025 Memorial Drive Oakland, MD 21550-4343 | WORCESTER Ph. 410-632-1100 Fax 410-632-0906 | PO Box 249 Snow Hill, MD 21863 |



Medication Administration Training for Child Care and Education Settings

Effective July, 2011, an addition to the Medication Administration and Storage section in COMAR will require that medication may be administered to a child in center-based care only by an employee who has completed approved medication administration training. This requirement will not apply to family child care homes at this time. Different situations may or may not require administration of medication to children while in child care, and providers should have written policies and procedures regarding when and if to give medications.

The Medication Administration training content includes:

- Policies about when to give medications and identifying situations which may or may not require administration of medication on site;
- Risks in giving medications;
- Authorization, documentation and follow-up to administration of medication;

- The "6 Rights" of Medication (right route, right medication, right time, right dose, right child and right documentation);
- Side effects and allergic reactions related to medication administration;
- Safety measures in handling, storing, and disposing of medications;
- Effective follow-up with parents and assisting parents with medication and
- Practice skills activities to help staff correctly measure and administer medication.

Medication administration training will be provided by trainers approved by Maryland State Department of Education. To locate medication administration training in your area visit <http://mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/providers/trcaldisclaimer.html> or www.marylandchildcare.org.

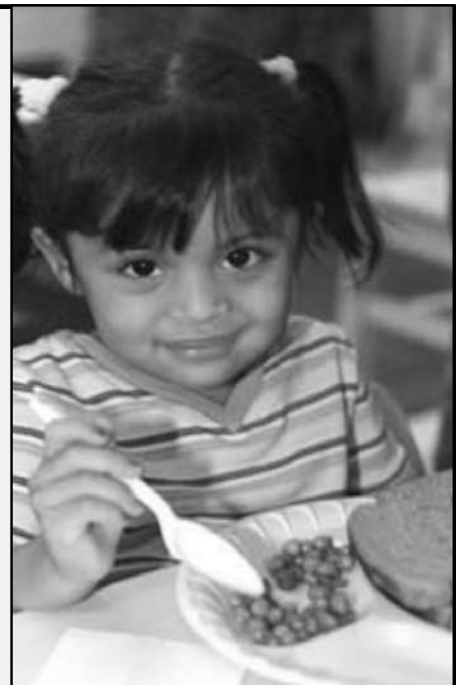
For a list of approved trainers by region visit: www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/F8CDF8A5-C58D-4CCF-A227-B90DC099B16C/22226/MedTrainList_Nov09.pdf

Tough economic times? Need assistance providing good nutrition? **THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM CAN HELP...**

RECEIVE CASH REIMBURSEMENT for meals served at eligible child care centers and family child care homes. Buy more nutritious food and teach children healthy eating habits that last a lifetime. Child care centers receive an average of
\$19,672
per year in cash reimbursements!

CALL TODAY!

MSDE's School & Community Nutrition Programs Branch
410-767-0214 / www.eatsmartmaryland.org



OFFICE OF CHILD CARE

Bigger and Better Quality Rating and Improvement System Coming to Maryland by 2011



Since 2001, Maryland has focused attention on quality initiatives that support and recognize child care professionals and programs, with the goal of improving early care and education outcomes for young children in our state. Among those initiatives are the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, Tiered Reimbursement for Child Care Subsidy, the MSDE Accreditation Project, the Program Administrator Scale, the MSDE Approved Curriculum Project and Maryland Model for School Readiness training. In an effort to bring these initiatives under one roof and provide clear information to parents and the public, a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is being developed by the Office of Child Care Advisory Council in cooperation with MSDE's Division of Early Childhood Development.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems for child care are now implemented in 18 states across the country as a systematic way to measure quality and to promote and support high quality programs. QRIS is a step system with 5 levels and corresponding 'star' ratings (one to five stars). All child care centers and family homes will be awarded one star. For Maryland centers, a "one star rating" is considered good and can be compared to a two or three star rating in some other states.

QRIS:

1. is currently in development;
2. will be voluntary;
3. will be available to all licensed child care providers;
4. will be open to a public comment period;
5. will be introduced to the child care community via focus group meetings held throughout the state and
6. will begin (target date Spring, 2011) with a Pilot Project to include programs participating in Tiered Reimbursement for Child Care Subsidy.

As progress continues, more information will be available in future issues of Partners and on the MSDE website.

For more information on Quality Rating Systems for Child Care, please visit: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/qrs-comcat.html>

To offer an opinion regarding QRIS, you may send your recommendations to: MSDE – Office of Child Care Advisory Council, RE: QRIS, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.





To View and Print Licensing Regulations and Forms:

| Regulations | Forms |
|--|--|
| Go to: www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/regulat | Go to: www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/licensing_branch/forms |
| – or – | – or – |
| Go to the MSDE website: www.marylandpublicschools.org/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Select Divisions ➤ Select Early Childhood Development ➤ Select Licensing Branch ➤ Select Regulations on the right hand side of the web page. | Go to the MSDE website: www.marylandpublicschools.org/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Select Divisions ➤ Select Early Childhood Development ➤ Select Licensing Branch ➤ Select Forms on the right hand side of the web page. |
| BE CERTAIN YOU ARE USING THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE LICENSING REGULATIONS AND LICENSING FORMS BY OBTAINING THEM FROM THE MSDE WEBSITE. THE REVISION DATE OF THE FORM IS LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM. | |



The Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program

The purpose of the Credentialing Program is to provide a pathway for early child care educators as they pursue training and career development. **Achievement Bonuses are paid** to participating providers.

Participation and renewal is easy.

Simply complete the Credential Application form and submit it with all required documentation. Applications for the Credential program are available on the web at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/credentials/mdcred.htm and at all Child Care Regional Offices and Resource & Referral Centers.

Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

The fund is used for college tuition, fees and textbooks for credentialed staff working toward a degree in early childhood or a related field.

To apply, prior to the beginning of the college semester, a complete application must be submitted to the Office of Child Care – Credentialing Branch. Applications and deadlines are on the MSDE website – Credentialing Branch.

Tiered Reimbursement Programs

Tiered Reimbursement Programs may contact the credential office for information on scheduling an Environmental Rating Scale assessment at least 60 days prior to the expiration date.

DECD welcomes Jena Smith to the Office of Child Care – Credentialing Branch in the position of Training Approval Coordinator. She can be reached at 410-767-7813 or by e-mail at Jena.Smith@msde.state.md.us

For information about Credentialing, incentive programs and applications, go to: www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/credentials/



Partnership Established Between MSDE and SEIU to Represent Family Child Care Homes and Informal Child Care Providers

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and MSDE have partnered based on an Executive Order from the Governor's Office for SEIU to represent family child care homes and informal child care providers. Informal child care providers are not licensed or registered, but are approved by the local department of social services to provide care for subsidy children and receive payment. SEIU will bargain for additional rights and services for child care providers, as well as act as a liaison to assist in resolving subsidy payment issues. An agreement has been signed that will bring about some changes for all child care providers, including child care centers.

The first change is a modest rate increase for all child care providers beginning January 4, 2010. The second is a provider orientation being added to the MSDE website which allows all providers to access it at their convenience so that they may learn more about child care policies and procedures.

The final change affects only family child care homes and informal providers. It is the deduction of union dues

for representation from child care providers' subsidy payments. Deductions will only be made for child care providers who have joined the union. The opportunity to join is only available to family homes and informal providers. The dues will be a maximum of \$20 per month. The dues deduction will be based on the amount of subsidy payment received for the month. For example, twenty dollars will be deducted monthly (\$10 taken out of each biweekly payment) for providers who receive a subsidy payment of \$200 or more. Five dollars will be deducted from each bi-weekly payment for providers who receive a subsidy payment of less than \$200 per month. Child care providers may also choose to have a voluntary deduction called a Committee on Political Education (COPE) made to support the education of politicians on special interests.

If you would like more information on SEIU or would like to join, please go to their website at: www.seiu.org. There is no obligation to join or requirement to pay up front for dues when you visit the website.



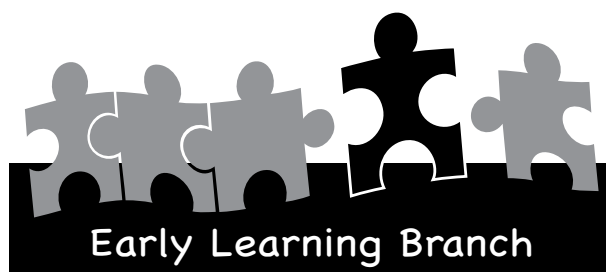
MARYLAND

STATE OFFICES CLOSED DATES

Maryland State government offices were or will be closed on the following Service Reduction Days:

- Thursday, December 24, 2009
- Thursday, December 31, 2009
- Friday, May 28, 2010

Please understand that these Service Reduction Days will affect service delivery. Processing of Child Care Subsidy applications and payments will be delayed, as well as Credentialing and Licensing determinations. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



Accreditation Project Update

The Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) has undergone some personnel changes which have impacted several programs and initiatives. The state's Early Childhood Accreditation Project is one of the initiatives which is experiencing delays in processing requests for accreditation or validation. In an effort to coordinate DECD's activities with reduced personnel, the Early Childhood Accreditation Project will be reorganized to streamline practices, improve efficiencies, and introduce new services. All previously scheduled pre-validation and validation visits will occur as scheduled. If your site has or will have an expired accreditation during the timeframe from now to June 30, 2010, the re-accreditation will be deferred until July 1, 2010.

The Division of Early Childhood Development is committed to providing high quality service across all areas of early care and education. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Dr. Joyce Pinkney, Accreditation/ARRA Specialist, MSDE Office of Child Care by telephone at (410) 767- 4441 or

by email at jpinkney@msde.state.md.us. We are very excited about these changes and will keep you updated as we proceed with them.



Children in a Middle States Accredited program enjoy small group activities as well as one-on-one interactions. Middle States is an accreditation program recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Accreditation Programs Recognized by the MSDE Early Childhood Accreditation Project

The MSDE Accreditation Project recognizes the following national and regional accreditation programs. Web addresses are listed below each program name.

American Montessori Internationale/USA (AMI/USA)
www.montessori-ami.org

American Montessori Society (AMS)
www.amshq.org

Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS)
www.aimsmd.org

Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
www.whywaldorfworks.org

Middle States Commission – Early Ages
(MSCES-Early Years)
www.ces-msa.org/Library

Middle States Commission of Elementary Schools (MSCES)
www.ces-msa.org

National Accreditation Commission (NAC)
www.ccrn.com

National Afterschool Association (NAA)
naaweb.yourmembership.com

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
www.naeyc.org/accreditation

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
nafcc.org/accreditation

National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
www.necpa.net

For more information on the MSDE Accreditation Project, and to view an updated list, go to:
www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/early_learning/Accred.htm



JUDY CENTERS

2009 Judith P. Hoyer Foundation Awards

As we go to press, the 2009 Judith P. Hoyer Foundation Award winners were announced. The Wicomico County Judy Center will be the recipient of the Most Improved Partnership Award and the Dorchester County Judy Center will be the recipient of the Innovative Spirit Award. The full story and photographs will appear in the next issue of the Partners Newsletter.

Judy Centers Placed in National Spotlight

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan joined House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick this week on a tour of the Judith P. Hoyer Center at Barnhart Elementary School in Waldorf. The work of Maryland's Judy Centers, Duncan said, should be replicated elsewhere.

"Just think if every child in the country could have this type of opportunity," Secretary Duncan said. "It wouldn't matter what their background...I would have a huge amount of confidence they would do well. This is a remarkable effort."



State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (center) welcome U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan to the Judy Center at Barnhart Elementary School in Charles County.

Rep. Hoyer invited Secretary Duncan to Charles County to place a focus on early childhood education and the importance of services for the entire community. Charles County Superintendent James Richmond and Barnhart Elementary Principal Kimberly Hairston hosted the event.

U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson has joined Rep. Hoyer in introducing the Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2009, a proposal to bring Judy Center-style programs to other communities throughout the nation.

Maryland's 24 Judy Centers provide one-stop shops for families with young children. The education, health, and family support services found at the centers help residents in innumerable ways—from early learning programs to English language instruction for adults.

The Centers are named after Judith P. "Judy" Hoyer, former Supervisor of Early Childhood Education in Prince George's County, and the late wife of Rep. Hoyer. They were established in Maryland nearly a decade ago, an investment that has paid dividends to residents many times over.

Secretary Duncan came away from his visit with a positive impression. "All of our [nation's] schools need to be full-service community schools," he said.



Judy Hoyer dedicated her life to improving the lives of young children and their families. Her legacy continues because of the work of the twenty-four Maryland Judy Centers that strive to promote school readiness through the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive, full-day, full-year early child care and education programs and family support services.

The Judy Center's purpose is to ensure school readiness for all students entering school.



JUDY CENTERS

Family Time Fun at the Overlook Judy Center Partnership is Huge Success

In April 2009, the Overlook Judy Center Partnership began sponsoring "Family Time Fun" events to provide activities for the whole family to do together.

Family Time events have included bowling and a pizza dinner at Par-Matt Bowling Lanes, an outdoor adventure with Scales & Tales at Deep Creek Lake and a Funland Family Fun Center activity with mini golf and ice cream. Because of the success of these events, Family Time Fun continues for the 2009-2010 school year.

Through generous contributions from local businesses, families have shared fun-filled experiences and teachable moments with their children. For more information about the Overlook Judy Center and events, call 301-334-4211.



Adults and children search for salamanders at the Deep Creek Lake State Park Discovery Center during the "What's Under the Rock?" Family Time Fun program.

Finding a Way for Our Children...with SEFEL!



Early childhood classrooms are the perfect setting to support social emotional competence. In the above photo, the teacher has been trained and is implementing the SEFEL Pyramid Model with young children at the Carroll County Judy Center.

Increasing referrals to the "time-out" and "behavior support" rooms for our youngest learners in Carroll County was a clear message that new techniques were needed. New practices utilizing the Center for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL) model became the answer. The SEFEL approach is based on the belief that we should teach young children social and emotional skills rather than punish them.

Training was provided during the summer for early childhood teachers, and to faculty who teach early childhood classes to high school students. Word spread quickly and in a short time, community collaborations for a shared understanding of best practices flourished with the implementation of the SEFEL model into all Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) pre-kindergarten classrooms, at Catholic Charities Head Start, and several Judy Center Partnership childcare center classrooms.

Services and training target child care programs that indicate a need for intervention strategies for children demonstrating persistent behavioral challenges.

For more information about the SEFEL project at the Carroll County Judy Center Partnership, please contact Sue Mitchell at 410-751-3613. Visit Vanderbilt.edu/csefel/ for more information on the SEFEL model.

The Judy Center's purpose is to ensure school readiness for all students entering school.



Announcement of the FY 2010 Infant and Toddler Expansion Project

If you have considered adding or expanding your capacity for serving infants and toddlers, you will now have the opportunity to apply for funding, support and assistance. The purpose of the Infant and Toddler Expansion Project is to increase the capacity for Infant and Toddler Child Care throughout the State of Maryland. Although we emphasize reaching “targeted areas”, all eligible child care providers are invited to submit a proposal during the solicitation. Applicants must be providing child care service for families receiving vouchers through The Child Care Subsidy Program and families whose incomes are at or below the State Median Income.

Funds will only be approved for the following expenditures:

1. Staff salaries and benefits for **additional child care personnel**;
2. Staff training and professional development;
3. Minor facility construction, fit-up and renovation; and
4. Purchase of new/additional equipment, supplies and materials.

Funds will not be provided for the following expenditures:

1. Supplant existing funds and/or fund sources;
2. Fund major renovation, new construction, leasing or purchasing of property;
3. Fund activities related to zoning, feasibility studies, engineering and architecture, or advertising; and
4. Recoup cost incurred prior to contract award under this RFQ.

In order to achieve our goals, collaborative partnerships will be established with regulated child care providers who:

- *Have three or more years of uninterrupted regulated child care experience;*
- *Have never been the subject of any negative regulatory action, including suspension, revocation or currently have any type of pending compliance agreement(s);*



- *Have a Core Staff with a Child Care Credential at Level 3 or Higher; Or,*
- *Have an Accredited Child Care Program from a recognized authority;*
- *Agree to participate in the Program Administration Scale (PAS) training for center directors/owners;*
- *Agree to participate in training in the use of the OUNCE SCALE as well as the ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale) for all child care staff; and,*
- *Agree to participate in the Emergency Preparedness Training for Child Care Providers.*

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, applicants must be able to comply with additional terms and conditions set forth in the proposal. The solicitation is posted to the eMarylandMarketPlace.com website. **A direct link to the Solicitation is provided on the MSDE website at: www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/** Scroll down to “Infant and Toddler Expansion Project. The Request for Quote (RFQ) # is R00R020067. For further information regarding the fy2010 Infant and Toddler Expansion Project, please contact the MSDE Procurement Officer, Allan Robinson at 410-767-0430.

For up to date news of grant opportunities, you may check the MSDE website listed above.



Maryland's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project

If you need assistance in working with a child in your care, your child, or would like to have a child care program evaluated to better support young children's social and emotional development, the Maryland Early Childhood Mental Health Project can provide the help you need, free of charge. Services can be provided for individual children or to a child care facility.

The Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation Project helps families and child care providers of children birth to five who have developmental or behavioral needs. The primary goal is to help children remain in stable, quality child care arrangements that support their individual needs. The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project began in 2002 as a three-year pilot program in Baltimore City, and in five counties on the Eastern Shore. As a result of the success of the pilot program, the Maryland State Department of Education funded the expansion of

the ECMH Consultation Pilot Project in 2006.

Consultation services are now available free of charge to help child care providers and parents. The project goals are to:

- Promote good mental health practices and early intervention services to young children and their families,
- Identify and work proactively with children who may have developmental, social, emotional, behavioral concerns;
- Help young children to acquire the social and emotional skills necessary to enter school ready to succeed; and
- Refer children and families in need of more intensive mental health services to appropriate support programs.

To inquire about services, contact the site in your area listed below.

Local Early Mental Health Projects by Region

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anne Arundel County | 410-222-1720 |
| Baltimore City | 410-685-5150 ext. 226 |
| Baltimore County | 410-828-7700 ext. 1204 |
| Carroll County | 410-751-2917 |
| Frederick County | 301-662-4549 |
| Harford/Cecil | 410-828-7700 ext. 1204 |
| Howard County | 410-313-2273 |
| Lower Shore | 410-677-6590 |
| <i>Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester</i> | |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Montgomery County | 240-777-4769 |
| Prince George's County | 301-772-8420 |
| Southern Maryland | 301-290-0040 |
| <i>Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's</i> | |
| Upper Shore | 410-822-5400 ext. 321 |
| <i>Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's</i> | |
| Western Maryland | 301-733-0000 |
| <i>Allegany, Garrett, Washington</i> | |

Earn Professional Development Units and Participate in an Evaluation Project

A family child care provider, center director or center staff receiving Early Childhood Mental Health consultation services will have the opportunity to earn a professional development unit with the Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program. They will also have the opportunity to participate in an evaluation study to determine the effectiveness of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project. Participation in the

evaluation study is voluntary and will involve completion of pre and post consultation questions.

For more information about the ECMH-C evaluation, contact Sarah James at **1-877-413-0002** or visit the evaluation website:

http://medschool.umaryland.edu/innovations/ECMHC_evaluations.asp

Maryland Child Care Resource Centers

Every community in Maryland is served by one of twelve regional child care resource and referral centers (CCR&Rs). Together, these CCR&Rs make up the Maryland Child Care Resource Network, which provides leadership and services designed to improve the quality, availability and affordability of child care

in communities across the State. This innovative, public-private partnership was initiated in 1989.

To locate the Resource Center in your area and for a complete listing of Resource Centers in Maryland you may visit: <http://www.mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/network/mainnumbers.html>



Prince George's Child Resource Center Named Outstanding Human Service Organization

The Human Service Coalition of Prince George's County recognized the Prince George's Child Resource Center as the Outstanding Human Service Organization for 2009. Resource Center staff and board members were cited for "not only the high quality services offered to the community, but its willingness to seek and constantly find ways to improve internally." Executive Director Marti Worshtil says, "being recognized by your peers is the highest honor and we are very grateful that the work we do on behalf of Prince George's families is valued."



The 18 year old nonprofit operates LOCATE: Child Care referral service, the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center, Healthy Families Prince George's and an extensive training and technical assistance program for child care providers.

Prince George's Child Resource Center helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. Each year the Resource Center provides family support services to over 5,000 families and training to over 4,500 child care providers, parents and human services workers touching the lives of nearly half a million children since 1990. For more information on the Prince George's Child Resource Center and the services offered to child care providers, go to www.childresource.org,

Port Discovery Children's Museum

Port Discovery Children's Museum Welcomes Early Childhood Educators

The early learners program at Port Discovery has several new features developed especially for children under six years of age. Port Discovery supports Maryland's early educators to help children become lifelong learners by creating programs such as:

- **Wonderful Wednesdays** – Wednesday mornings are focused on children under the age of six with special programs to provide active learning experiences that involve all their senses;
- **Oasis Circle Time** – an interactive program that includes music and movement activities and
- **Special Exhibitions** – Wonders of Water – encourages curiosity and experimentation with water and materials in purposeful play. Royal Farms Store – the children's version, utilizes dramatic play to

address issues of health, food choices and problem solving. **Coming in 2010:** Bob the Builder: Project Build It – an immersive, hands-on environment encourages children to manipulate tools, build, explore and role play. Sensation Station for children four years and younger for physical skills development.

Early childhood programming at Port Discovery is an on-going process with new activities and programs that ensure your experience will be different each time you visit. For more information, go to www.portdiscovery.org or call Nora Moynihan, Director of Education and Community Enrichment at 410-864-2664.



Successful early childhood programs don't just happen. Achieving quality requires commitment, education and a community support system in order to impact the lives of young children, their families and the community. Sandi's Learning Center in the Rosemont Community of Baltimore City, opened in March, 2008 at a new 15,200 square foot facility. A non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, the program serves children six weeks to 12 years of age and is accredited by MSDE. Their mission is to provide a full service learning facility to address the educational and developmental needs of the community and to provide children ages six weeks to 12 years a solid academic foundation to succeed in school and in life.

Sandi's Learning Center Receives 2009 Child Care Challenge Award

Sandi's Learning Center was selected to receive the 2009 Child Care Challenge Award from the Women Legislators of Maryland. The award was presented at the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony on March 12, 2009. The award recognizes businesses and organizations that have developed solutions to child care or committed resources to designing a program for children of working parents. Selection is based on the effective use of scarce funds, care for under-served communities and innovative programs to aid working parents.



Left to right: Beatrice Williams, Baltimore City Public Schools Early Learning Division, Joyce Nixon, MSDE, Dr. Brenda Kelly, Director of Early Learning for Baltimore City Public Schools, Lisa Shelton, Executive Director, Sandi's Learning Center, Maryland's First Lady Katie O'Malley, Angeline Bishop-Oshoko, MSDE and Linda Zang, MSDE.



Even Start Grant Award

Sandi's Learning Center, in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools, was awarded an Even Start Grant from the U.S. Department of Education in October, 2009. Even Start is an education program for the Nation's low-income families that is designed to improve the academic achievement of young children and their parents, especially in the area of reading. Even Start offers promise for helping to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy in the Nation by combining four core components which make up family literacy:

1. early childhood education;
2. adult literacy (adult basic and secondary-level education and/or instruction for English language learners);
3. parenting education and
4. interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.

Executive Director, Lisa Shelton, describes the model of the program at Sandi's Learning Center this way, "It's like a pie: it's the family, it's the children, it's the community". Ms. Shelton credits her funders, her board of directors and her staff for the success of her program. She believes they share her commitment to uplifting the community by providing affordable services to children and families. To reach their goals, a strong emphasis is maintained on collaborating and partnering with those agencies, foundations and businesses that make it possible to provide wrap around services their children, families, staff members and the community.

For more information about Sandi's Learning Center, go to: www.sandislearningcenter.org or call (410) 94-LEARN (5-3276)



Two Early Childhood Organizations Merge

Two of Maryland's early childhood organizations – Friends of the Family and Maryland Committee for Children – have merged to create the **Maryland Family Network**. This merger will allow Maryland Family Network to better address the needs of pregnant women, young children, their families, early care professionals and other caregivers.

Maryland Family Network now leads two statewide networks:

- Family Support Centers (23 statewide) help parents meet their goals of becoming economically self-sufficient and raising healthy, successful children. Family Support Centers provide:
 - parent education and model child development programs,
 - adult basic education and GED preparation,
 - classes in life skills and workplace readiness, and

- assistance in attending to health needs including family planning, substance abuse, and nutrition.

- Child Care Resource Centers (12 regional centers) are the “go to” place for all matters related to child care. Child Care Resource Centers:

- help parents find child care that fits their family's needs,
- offer training and technical assistance to child care providers in order to improve the quality of child care, help providers comply with State regulations, and expand the supply of licensed care, and
- collect data on the demand, supply, and cost of child care statewide.

Online at:

www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

Census Day - April 1, 2010

Did you know that Maryland receives billions of dollars in Federal Funds each year for programs and services based on the Census? For each person counted in the census, our state receives \$1,000 or \$10,000 for a ten year period. Those funds support services on which you rely.

A census questionnaire will arrive at your residence in March 2010. Answer the Census! It's important to all of US!

IT'S SAFE – no personal information is shared with any other agency, marketing company or individual.



IT'S EASY – it only takes a few minutes to answer 10 questions. It's Important – for funding important services in your community such as: Education, Schools and Job Training, Affordable Housing, Transportation and Transit Projects, Services for the Elderly and Health Care.



www.census.state.md.us

It's In Our Hands Maryland!

MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION



Go to the Maryland Public Television website:

www.mpt.org

➤ **Select: Learn**

A Place of Our Own is a fun, informative series and website designed for adults who care for young children. It's filled with lively discussions, tips, resources and activities to help prepare children for kindergarten. Watch videos, find practical activities, take part in discussions on topics that you deal with every day.

Thinkport is a free, comprehensive online resource for Maryland K-12 educators, brought to you by Maryland Public Television and Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education. An early childhood page is being developed for Thinkport. www.mpt.org/learn

Online early childhood approved training is also being developed by MPT in cooperation with MSDE.



**week of the
young child**



APRIL 11-17, 2010
www.naeyc.org/woyc

MDAEYC Tides Newsletter is available online at: www.mdaeyc.org/newsltr.htm

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, abbreviated ARRA, is an economic stimulus package. On February 17, 2009, this Act of Congress was implemented largely on proposals made by President Barack Obama and was intended to provide a boost to the U.S. economy in the wake of a national recession. Among several others, the purposes of this Act are to: preserve and create jobs and retain jobs; assist those most impacted by the recession; and stabilize state and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services.

All lead agencies, of which MSDE is one, are required to provide transparent accountability of funds spent or allocated. As responsible stewards of fiscal and community resources, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, noted that "...the State Department of Education is committed to ensuring responsible and accountable management of

Maryland's education stimulus funds." All ARRA spending can be found on its designated website: www.recovery.gov.

Within the MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland received \$24 million through the Child Care Development Block Grant. Most of the funds are for direct services and distribution to families, child care centers and program providers. Examples of the use of these funds are seen through the Child Care Subsidy (Purchase of Care) Program, use of funds to restore budget cuts to the Child Care Resource and Referral (MCC) program, and direct spending to the Family Support Centers.



| Program | Purpose | Allocation |
|---------------------------|--|------------|
| Direct Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Child Care Resource and Referral (MCC): Acts as a conduit to families and communities – Purchase of Care program: Provides child care vouchers to low-income Maryland parents – Family Support Centers: Restores program | \$18m |
| Technological Enhancement | To enhance the Child Care Automated Tracking System to meet the current and future business needs | \$3.9m |
| I&T | To impact technology | \$825k |
| Administration | To execute and monitor funding | \$900k |
| 4% Set-aside | To ensure effective and prudent fiscal management | \$500k |

Note: Allocations listed are rounded off.

All MSDE ARRA funds will be spent over three (3) years beginning School Fiscal Year 2008 / 2009, and liquidated by September 30, 2011.

Eliminating Lead Paint Hazards In Child Care

The Office of Child Care licensing regulations require child care facilities to maintain lead safe child care environments according to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Lead dust is the primary source of lead paint poisoning in children. Special lead safe work practices and cleanup should be conducted only by trained and certified individuals. After the work is completed, **lead dust wipe testing** should be performed by an accredited lead inspection contractor.

A passing test result is the documentation required for compliance with the Office of Child Care regulation to provide a lead safe child care environment.

To locate accredited inspection and abatement contractors, visit the MDE lead poisoning prevention website at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/LeadCoordination/homeOwners/index.asp>

Healthy for Life: Nutrition and Young Children

As a child care provider, you want the children in your care to be healthy and thrive. Unfortunately, our children may be the first generation to have a shorter lifespan than their parents - often the result of a poor diet and lack of physical activity. The good news is that many negative health outcomes can be prevented by you! The early years are critical for introducing positive habits that last a lifetime.

The current food environment includes many unhealthy options such as sweetened drinks, high-fat snacks, and fast food. You help children adopt healthy eating habits

when you introduce tasty meals and snacks that include a variety of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy.

Nutrition Tips for Young Children:

- Offer a variety of healthy foods;
- Limit the amount of juice offered;
- Limit high-fat, high-sugar, and high-sodium foods;
- Serve family-style, when possible, to teach children to serve themselves;
- Never force, trick, or coerce a child into eating. You provide; they decide. Adults provide healthy food choices, the child's job is to decide how much or even whether to eat.
- Serve foods that are baked, broiled, or sautéed in place of fried foods; and
- One of the best ways to get children to eat healthy is to be a good role model!

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a nutrition education and reimbursement program for licensed child care centers and registered family child care homes, can help provide nutritious food for children in your care and lower meal costs. The CACFP provides cash reimbursement to providers for healthy meals and snacks. Last year over 500 Maryland child care centers participated in the program. Contact the Maryland State Department of Education's School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch at 410-767-0214, scnp@msde.state.md.us, or visit www.eatsmartmaryland.org.

WE ARE YOUR PARTNERS

MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/

The Division of Early Childhood Development at the Maryland State Department of Education is responsible for early care and education in Maryland. The main mission of the Division is to improve early care and education in Maryland so that young children are well prepared for school. The Division is composed of the **Office of Child Care**, the **Early Learning Branch**, and the **Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch**. The **Office of Child Care** comprises the:

- **LICENSING BRANCH**, which licenses and monitors child care centers and family child care providers,
- **CREDENTIALING BRANCH**, which administers the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, the Child Care Accreditation Support Fund, the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund, Tiered Reimbursement and Training Approval.
- **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY BRANCH** (formerly Purchase of Care, or "POC"), which regulates and administers Maryland's child care subsidy voucher system for income-eligible families.

The **Early Learning Branch** is responsible for the Judith P. Hoyer Programs (i.e., Judy Centers and Enhancement Grants for Private Providers), the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR), Early Childhood Accreditation, Public Pre-K and Kindergarten, and the Early Childhood Curriculum Project, as well as curriculum development and policy and programmatic issues related to prekindergarten and kindergarten.

The **Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch** issues and administers early care contracts and grants, including the Family Child Care Provider Grant and the Quality Improvement Grant. It also houses the:

- **Head Start State Collaboration Project**, which coordinates early learning and comprehensive services between local Head Start programs and state and local agencies;
- **Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Project**, which helps identify and address child behavioral issues in early learning environments, and
- **Program Administration Scale (PAS) Project**, which promotes development of leadership and management skills in early childhood programs.

• • • • • REGULATION CHANGES • • • • •

Emergency and Disaster Planning – July 2010

- Child care centers and family child care homes will be required to develop, train staff, conduct practice drills and post an Emergency and Disaster Plan for their program.

Medication Administration Training – July 2011

- Child care centers may administer medication to a child in center-based care only by an employee who has completed approved medication training. This requirement will not apply to family child care homes at this time.
- **Need help?** Check the Statewide Training Calendar at <http://mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/providers/trcaldisclaimer.html> or www.mdchildcare.org

Other New Training Requirements

- **Family Child Care Infant-Toddler Training**
 - Effective July 1, 2010, anyone applying for an infant-toddler capacity of more than two children younger than 2 years old must provide documentation of the completion of 45 clock hours of approved training, related exclusively to the care of children younger than 2 years old.
 - A provider approved before July 1, 2010, for an infant-toddler capacity of more than two children younger than 2 years old must, by December 31, 2010, complete 45 clock hours of approved training, related exclusively to the care of children younger than 2 years old in order to maintain that approval.
- **Nursery School Teacher Training**
 - Any new teacher hired after July 1, 2010 must provide documentation of the completion of at least 6 semester hours of approved early childhood coursework.
 - Any teacher approved by the Department before July 1, 2010, will remain qualified for that position as long as the individual is continuously employed as a teacher.
 - Effective July 1, 2010, a teacher in an educational program shall complete at least 12 clock hours of approved continued training per full year of employment, (measured from date of hire).

Check the MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development website for a link to the Maryland Registry to review the new regulations - available by mid-February, 2010.



*A Publication from the Maryland
State Department of Education*

Rolf Grafwallner
Assistant State Superintendent

Elizabeth Kelley
Director, Office of Child Care

Lindi Mitchell Budd
Editor-in-Chief

Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

Martin O'Malley
Governor

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. For inquiries related to departmental policy, contact the Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595. Phone: 410-767-0433, TTY/TDD: 410-333-6442, Fax: 410-767-0431.

If you have any questions or comments about this publication, please contact Lindi Mitchell Budd, editor, at 410-767-7863.



Division of Early Childhood Development
Office of Child Care • J1018
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT NO.7873